

**Abstract**

In a method for operating a radio station, the radio station periodically receives content files via a satellite data channel. The received content files are stored. At least some of the stored files are then retrieved, played and broadcast in accordance with an electronic schedule. In accordance with another method, a plurality of affiliate radio stations are provided with content files via a satellite-based content delivery system. Each of the affiliate radio stations is also provided with an electronic schedule that instructs an automation system of the affiliate radio station to retrieve, play and broadcast ones of the content files, thereby generating a near real-time radio broadcast. Methods and apparatus for recording said content files for tiers of affiliates, and for recording said content for multiple or singular affiliates, are also disclosed.